

**From:** Matthew C. Guyton

**Sent:** Monday, September 11, 2023 1:10 AM

**To:** Eugene Benson; Kin Lau; Stephen Revilak; Rachel Zsembery; Ashley Maher

**Cc:** MBTA Communities; Stephen DeCoursey; Len Diggins; Eric Helmuth; John Hurd; Diane Mahon; Claire Ricker; Jim Feeney

**Subject:** MBTA Communities and Recreational Space

Dear Redevelopment Board (CC'ing MBTA Communities Working Group, Select Board, Town Manager, Planning Director),

As you consider the MBTA Communities Act plan, I hope that whichever plan you support, you will also plan for proportional increases in recreational space, particularly soccer fields.

The families of Arlington are blessed with a great soccer community that provides many health benefits and strengthens community ties across residents of all economic backgrounds. To put it in perspective, for every 3 children in Arlington Public Schools, 1 child is playing on a team this season in the Arlington Soccer Club. However, it is already very difficult to get soccer field space because so much of Arlington's land is built out compared to our population size. With the MBTA Communities Act, we will be welcoming more families to Arlington, and therefore will need more recreational space. Because land is a limited resource, it will be too late to create more recreational space after the new housing is already built.

I am asking you to identify and reserve land for future recreational space in proportion to whatever population increase this new zoning will provide. If you support a plan that could eventually allow a 5% increase in Arlington's population, please set aside land for 5% more recreational space. Similarly, if you support a plan that allows for a 100% future increase in population, please set aside enough land to double the amount of recreational space in Arlington.

Please plan for recreational space when you consider Arlington's response to the MBTA Communities Act.

Thank you,  
Matt Guyton  
22 Irving St